1837 **TELEGRAPHY—MORSE CODE** **S B Morse (USA)**

While Cooke and Wheatstone of England had proposed electrical telegraph principles, it took the genius of Samuel B Morse to develop the electrical hardware and also recognise the essential elements for a simple code adaptable to his on-off (binary) telegraph system. He first demonstrated his system in 1837–38 and put it into practice in 1844, after he obtained a government grant to connect Baltimore with Washington DC, a distance of 37 miles. This was the first practical development of electrical telecommunications. It met a real need for fast communications and spread rapidly.

SOURCE: 'Telecommunications—the resource not depleted by use. A historical and philosophical resume' by W L Everitt *Proc. IEEE* vol 64, No 9, p 1293 (September 1976)